AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising levodopa methyl ester and an acid-base couple, wherein administering a single oral dose of said composition to a human provides to said human a maximum plasma concentration of levodopa at about 0.3 hours (T_{max}) after said administering.

9. (New) The composition of claim 8, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

10. (New) The composition of claim 8, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

11. (New) The composition of claim 10, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

12. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising levodopa methyl ester (LDME) and an acid-base couple, wherein administering a single oral dose of said composition to a human provides to said human a mean maximum plasma concentration of levodopa (C_{max}/dose) of about 9.6 ng/mL/[mg LDME] after said administering.

13. (New) The composition of claim 12, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

14. (New) The composition of claim 12, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

15. (New) The composition of claim 14, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

16. (New) The composition of claim 12, wherein said C_{max} is about 3000 [± 1592] ng/mL when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

17. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising levodopa methyl ester (LDME) and an acid-base couple, wherein administering a single oral dose of said composition to a human provides to said human an area under the curve of levodopa in plasma from 0 to 1 hour (AUC_{1h}/dose) of about 5.3 ng·hr/mL/[mg LDME] after said administering.

18. (New) The composition of claim 17, wherein said AUC_{1h} is about 1683 [± 1074] ng·hr/mL when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

19. (New) The composition of claim 17, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

20. (New) The composition of claim 17, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

21. (New) The composition of claim 20, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

22. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising levodopa methyl ester and an acid-base couple, wherein administering a single oral dose of said composition to a human provides to said human a ratio of about 2.7 of mean plasma concentration of levodopa at 15 minutes after said administering compared to 60 minutes after said administering.

23. (New) The composition of claim 22, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

24. (New) The composition of claim 22, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

25. (New) The composition of claim 24, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

26. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising levodopa methyl ester (LDME) and an acid-base couple, wherein administering a single oral dose of said composition to a

human provides to said human a mean plasma concentration (C_p) of levodopa of about 8.8 ng/mL/[mg LDME] 15 minutes after said administering.

27. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein said C_p is about 2787 ng/mL 15 minutes after said administering when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

28. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein said administering further provides to said human a mean plasma concentration of levodopa of about 5.4 ng/mL/[mg LDME] 30 minutes after said administering.

29. (New) The composition of claim 28, wherein said C_p is about 1705 ng/mL 30 minutes after said administering when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

30. (New) The composition of claim 28, wherein said administering further provides to said human a mean plasma concentration of levodopa of about 4.2 ng/mL/[mg LDME] 45 minutes after said administering.

31. (New) The composition of claim 30, wherein said C_p is about 2787 ng/mL 15 minutes after said administering when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

32. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

33. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

34. (New) The composition of claim 33, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

35. (New) A method of providing levodopa to a human in need thereof, said method comprising orally administering to said human a composition comprising levodopa methyl ester and an acid-base couple, wherein a single oral dose of said composition provides to said human a maximum plasma concentration of levodopa (T_{max}) at about 0.3 hours after said administering.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

39. (New) A method of providing levodopa to a human in need thereof, said method comprising orally administering to said human a composition comprising levodopa methyl ester (LDME) and an acid-base couple, wherein a single oral dose of said composition provides to said human a mean maximum plasma concentration of levodopa (C_{max}/dose) of about 9.6 ng/mL/[mg LDME] after said administering.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said C_{max} is about 3000 [± 1592] ng/mL when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

42. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

44. (New) A method of providing levodopa to a human in need thereof, said method comprising orally administering to said human a composition comprising levodopa methyl ester (LDME) and an acid-base couple, wherein a single oral dose of said composition provides to said human an area under the curve of levodopa in plasma from 0 to 1 hour (AUC_{1h}/dose) of about 5.3 ng·hr/mL/[mg LDME] after said administering.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said AUC_{1h} is about 1683 [± 1074] ng·hr/mL when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

47. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

49. (New) A method of providing levodopa to a human in need thereof, said method comprising orally administering to said human a first composition comprising levodopa methyl ester (LDME) and an acid-base couple, wherein a first time to obtain a maximum plasma concentration (T_{max}) of levodopa in said human after said administering is less than a second time taken to obtain a T_{max} of levodopa after administering a second composition to said human, wherein said second levodopa composition is the same in all respects as said first composition except that it does not contain said acid-base couple.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein said first time is about half of said second time.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

52. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.